

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1518

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN ENERGY CONCERNS: DELIVERY SLT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REF: (A) ROME 0892; (B) ROME 1409; (C) STATE 021520

1. RAPID DELIVERY IEA STANDING COMMITTEE ON LONG TERM COOPERATION
(SLT) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (REF C) TO GOI ENERGY OFFICIALS COSTA (MFA

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ENERGY OFFICE CHIEF) AND FOLCHI (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY ENERGY

OFFICE VICE DG) MUCH APPRECIATED. FOLCHI PARTICULARLY PLEASED, CITING DELAYS IN RECEIVING DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH IEA SECRETARIAT (PROBLEM LIES IN PARIS-ROME TRANSMISSION, NOT IN SECRETARIAT ITSELF) WHICH HAVE PREVENTED TIMELY CONSIDERATION BY GOI. AS WELL, EMBOFF DELIVERY MAKES POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN IEA AND ENERGY MATTERS GENERALLY WHICH FOLCHI (PARTICULARLY) FINDS USEFUL, AND WISHES TO ENCOURAGE. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, EMBASSY ENCOURAGES THIS PRACTICE AS ONE MEANS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH GOI ENERGY OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY WITH FAST PACE CURRENT ACTIVITIES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL IF SIMILARLY TIMELY MATERIAL WERE AVAILABLE IN FRENCH, WHICH APART FROM ITALIAN, IS MORE READILY UNDERSTOOD BY GOI OFFICIALS THAN ENGLISH. END COMMENT

2. COSTA AND FOLCHI TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN REITERATE GOI CONCERNS (REF A, B) RE EVENTUAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE PROPOSED BY USG GUARANTEEING INVESTMENTS IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES. GOI IS CONCERNED THAT US PROPOSALS WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MARKEDLY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES BETWEEN US (AND MAYBE UK), POTENTIALLY INDEPENDENT CIRCUMSTANCES BETWEEN US (AND MAYBE UK), POTENTIALLY INDEPENDENT OF IMPORTED ENERGY, AND ITALY AND MOST OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR WHICH INDEPENDENCE IS NOT A REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, GOI CONCERNED THAT US PROPOSAL WILL (A) ESTABLISH IMPOSSIBLY HIGH FLOOR UNDER ENERGY PRICES--DEFINED BY COSTA AS EQUIVALENT TO OIL AT US DOLS 8-9 PER BARREL--AND (B) THAT COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES WOULD BE INEQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED. FOLCHI NOTED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED THESE CONCERNS AT JANUARY 23-24 SLT MEETING WHICH HE ATTENDED AS GOI REP. BOTH FOLCHI AND COSTA WERE PESSIMISTIC THAT POINT OF VIEW OF ENERGY-RESOURCE-POOR COUNTRIES WOULD BE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN US PROPOSALS, AND CONSEQUENTLY, THAT GOI WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT US PROPOSALS WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE MODIFICATION AND DELAY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THESE CONCERNS ARE SCARCELY NEW, BOTH COSTA AND FOLCHI SEEMED LESS HOPEFUL THAT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED AMICABLY THAN THEY HAVE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. VOLPE

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